

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-09 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12

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OMB-01 RSR-01 /161 W

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7847

INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 2119

REF: MADRID 1250

1. SUMMARY: LOPEZ BRAVO MADE ONE DAY VISIT TO ROME MARCH 12 AT INVITATION ITALIAN FONMIN MEDICI. ALTHOUGH LITTLE NEW GROUND WAS BROKEN DURING DISCUSSION OF MEDITERRANEAN, MIDDLE EAST, CSCE, EC AND BILATERAL RELATIONS, BOTH SIDES EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH RESULTS ACHIEVED. END SUMMARY.

2. ALTHOUGH THERE HAS BEEN CONTINUING AND NOT INCONSIDERABLE RANGE OF BILATERAL CONTACTS BETWEEN ITALY AND SPAIN, FONOFF SOURCE CONFIRMED THAT LOPEZ BRAVO MARCH 12 TRIP TO ROME WAS FIRST OFFICIAL VISIT AT FONMIN LEVEL SINCE THE WAR. ( LOPEZ BRAVO HAS MADE UNOFFICIAL VISIT TO ROME PREVIOUSLY AND RECENTLY MADE OFFICIAL CALL AT VATICAN.) FONOFF SOURCE NOTED THAT CURRENT VISIT WAS CLOSELY HELD SECRET UNTIL LAST MINUTE FOR FEAR THAT ITALIAN LEFTIST ELEMENTS WOULD STAGE DEMONSTRATIONS OR THAT COMMUNIST AND SOCIALIST DEPUTIES WOULD MAKE ISSUE OF VISIT IN PARLIAMENT. FACT THAT NOTHING OF THIS SORT OCCURRED WAS ATTRIBUTED BY SOURCE IN PART TO RECENT IMPROVEMENT OF RELATIONS BETWEEN SPAIN AND VARIOUS COMMUNIST COUNTRIES.

3. MOST OF LOPEZ BRAVO'S STAY IN ROME WAS TAKEN UP WITH PRIVATE  
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TALKS WITH MEDICI OR IN CONVERSATIONS AT WHICH ONLY TOP LEVEL FONOFF OFFICIALS PLUS SPANISH AND ITALIAN AMBS WERE PRESENT. PRIMIN ANDREOTTI JOINED THE GROUP AT LUNCH. ACCORDING TO REPORT PREPARED ON VISIT BY THE FARNESINA, DISCUSSION CENTERED CHIEFLY ON GENERAL REVIEW OF SELECTED INTERNATIONAL TOPICS. FONMIN FIRST TOOK UP QUESTION OF VARIOUS PROPOSALS ( ALGERIAN, YUGOSLAV, MALT-ESE) FOR MEDITERRANEAN SECURITY CONFERENCE. ACCORDING SOURCE, LOPEZ BRAVO AGREED THAT ONLY REALISTIC IDEA WAS STANDING ITALIAN PROPOSAL FOR CONVENING OF CONFERENCE OF ALL MEDITERRANEAN REPAR- IANS AFTER SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION OF CSCE AND AFTER RESOLUTION OF ARAB- ISRAELI DISPUTE. FONMIN AGREED ON NEED FOR CLOSER COOPER- ATION ON MEDITERRANEAN PROBLEMS AND FOR SUPPORT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF COUNTRIES IN THE AREA. THEY ALSO CONCURRED THAT EFFORTS SHOULD BE UNDERTAKEN TO DAMP DOWN MIDEAST TENSION.

4. IN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON CSCE FONMINS NOTED OVERALL SATIS- FACTION WITH PROGRESS AT HELSINKI. THEY SPOKE APPROVINGLY OF ITALIAN- SPANISH CONTACTS AT MPT TALKS AND MEDICI CHARACTERIZED MADRID' S ROLE IN CSCE AS POSITIVE SIGN FOR EVENTUAL SPANISH ENTRY ONTO EUROPEAN SCENE. FONMINS ALSO HAD BRIEF DISCUSSION OF MBFR DURING WHICH BOTH EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT FORCE REDUCTIONS IN CENTRAL EUROPE SHOULD NOT HAVE ADVERSE REPERCUSSIONS ON MEDI- TERRANEAN AREA.

5. MEDICI SUGGESTED TO LOPEZ BRAVO INCREASED TECHNICAL LEVEL CONTACTS TO PREPARE WAY FOR SUCH TIME WHEN SPANISH POLITICAL CON- DITION WILL PERMIT SPANISH EC ENTRY. EXCHANGE OF VISITS OF AGRICULTURAL AND FOREIGN TRADE MINS WAS MENTIONED IN THIS CONNEC- TION. FONOFF SOURCE SAID ITALY RECOGNIZES THAT PRESENT 1973 EC ADAPTATION PROTOCOL IS ONLY STOP- GAP MEASURE AND THAT NEGOTIA- TIONS FOR ARRANGEMENT WITH SPAIN TO BE EFFECTIVE JAN 1, 1974 SHOULD GET UNDER WAY BEFORE TOO LONG. SOURCE SAID MEDICI ALSO REMINDED SPANISH THAT EC AGRICUTLURAL CONCESSIONS TO SPAIN WOULD CAUSE PROBLEMS FOR ITALY UNLESS HANDLED IN MANNER TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT ITALY' S INTERESTS IN COMPETITIVE AGRICUTLURAL PRODUCTS.

6. BOTH SIDES AGREED THAT BILATERAL RELATIONS WERE GOOD IN ALL SPHERES AND COULD BE INCREASED, PARTICULARLY IN COMMERCIAL FIELD. FONMINS ALSO SINGLED OUT MILITARY COOPERATION AS AREA FOR EX- PANSION, EXPRESSING HOPE THAT LEVEL OF COOPERATION IN NAVAL MAT- TERS COULD BE EXTENDED TO ARMIES AND AIR FORCES. FONOFF SOURCE NOTED THAT ITALIAN AIR FORCE CHIEF OF STAFF IS SCHEDULED TO VISIT  
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MADRID SOON. ALTHOUGH, ACCORDING SOURCE, THERE WAS NO DISCUSSION

OF MEDICI VISIT, BOTH FONMINS EXPRESSED SATISFACTION AT OPENING  
OF DIALOGUE AT HIGH OFFICIAL LEVEL. VOLPE

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